

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for displaying recent items, comprising:
  - determining a recent item based on an access to the item; associating the recent item with a contact maintained in a contact list when the item has an associated contact;
  - placing the recent item in a recent items list that includes all recently accessed items;
  - generating the recent items list such that the recent item is only shown once within the recent items list; and
  - displaying the recent items list.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein determining the recent item further comprises determining a time associated with the communication.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein determining the recent item further comprises determining a frequency associated with the communication.
4. The method of Claim 2, further comprising determining a frequency associated with the communication.
5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising replying to the recent item by using any available communication method.
6. The method of Claim 5, wherein the communication method is selected from a set comprising a telephone call, an IM message, an SMS message, MMS message and an email.
7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the recent item list is limited to a predetermined number of recent items.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein determining the recent item based on the communication further comprises determining when the communication is private and when the communication is private marking the communication as a non-recent item.

9. The method of Claim 2, further comprising displaying the time of the communication within a title bar of a contacts window when the recent item is highlighted.

10. The method of Claim 1, further comprising turning off the display of the recent items list based on a setting.

11. A system for displaying recent items, comprising:  
a communications connection configured to receive a communication;  
a display configured to display a recent items list; and  
a recent items application configured to perform actions, including:  
determining a recent item;  
associating the recent item with a contact maintained in a contact list when recent item is based on the communication;  
placing the recent item in the recent items list that includes all recently accessed items;  
generating the recent items list such that the recent item is only shown once within the recent items list; and  
displaying the recent items list on the display.

12. The system of Claim 11, wherein determining the recent item further comprises determining a time associated with the communication.

13. The system of Claim 12, wherein determining the recent item further comprises determining a frequency associated with the recent item.

14. The system of Claim 11, further comprising using the communication connection to reply to the recent contact by using any available communication method.

15. The system of Claim 11, wherein the recent items list is limited to a predetermined number of recent items.

16. The system of Claim 12, wherein determining the recent contact based on the communication further comprises determining when the communication is private and when the communication is private marking the communication as a non-recent contact.

17. The system of Claim 12, further comprising instructing the display to display the time of the communication within a title bar of a contacts window when the recent contact is highlighted.

18. A computer-readable medium for displaying recent items, comprising:  
determining a recent item based on an access to an item; attempting to associate the recent item with a contact maintained in a contact list;  
placing the recent item in a recent items list that includes all recently accessed items;  
generating the recent items list such that the recent item is only shown once within the recent contact list; and  
displaying the recent contact list.

19. The computer-readable medium of Claim 18, wherein determining the recent item further comprises determining at least one of a time associated with the access to the item and a frequency associated with the access to the item.

20. The computer-readable medium of Claim 18, further comprising replying to the recent item by using any available communication method.

21. The computer-readable medium of Claim 18, wherein determining the recent item based on the access to the item further comprises determining when a communication is private and when the communication is private marking the communication as a non-recent item.

22. The computer-readable medium of Claim 19, further comprising displaying the time of the access to the item within a title bar of a contacts window when the recent item is highlighted.

23. The computer-readable medium of Claim 18, further comprising turning off the display of the recent items list based on a setting.